

**Application Serial No. 10/788,838**  
**Reply to non-final office action mailed April 30, 2008**

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### **Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
  
determining, at a headend node, terminal node characteristics of a media network;  
  
based on the determined terminal node characteristics, selecting an algorithm and one or more control parameters for processing a fingerprint;  
  
downloading the selected algorithm and one or more control parameters to a fingerprint control protocol; and  
  
transferring the fingerprint control protocol to a terminal node, wherein the fingerprint control protocol includes an Internet protocol header, a user datagram protocol header, a real-time transport protocol header, a FlexMux header, and a synchronization layer header.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
  
utilizing, at the terminal node, the fingerprint control protocol to process the fingerprint.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein utilizing, at the terminal node, the fingerprint control protocol to process the fingerprint, comprises:  
  
generating the fingerprint; and

forwarding the fingerprint to the headend node for verification.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
periodically checking the terminal node characteristics to adjust the selected algorithm and one or more control parameters.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the fingerprint control protocol further includes data that is packed into one or more MPEG elementary streams.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the fingerprint is a video fingerprint.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the fingerprint is an audio fingerprint.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the fingerprint control protocol is an application level control protocol.
9. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:  
a headend node, wherein the headend node determines terminal node characteristics of a media network, wherein the headend node selects an algorithm and one or more control parameters to process a fingerprint based on the determined terminal node characteristics, and wherein the headend node downloads the selected algorithm and control parameters to a fingerprint control protocol, wherein the fingerprint control protocol includes an Internet

protocol header, a user datagram protocol header, a real-time transport protocol header, a FlexMux header, and a synchronization layer header.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising:  
a terminal node, wherein the terminal node receives the fingerprint control protocol from the headend node and uses the fingerprint control protocol to process the fingerprint.
11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the terminal node generates the fingerprint and forwards the fingerprint to the headend node for verification.
12. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the headend node periodically checks the terminal node characteristics to adjust the selected algorithm and one or more control parameters.
13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the fingerprint control protocol further includes data that is packed into one or more MPEG elementary streams.
14. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the fingerprint is a video fingerprint.
15. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the fingerprint is an audio fingerprint.
16. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the fingerprint control protocol is an

application level control protocol.

17. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a processing system, cause the processing system to perform a method, the method comprising:

determining, at a headend node, terminal node characteristics of a media network;

based on the determined terminal node characteristics, selecting an algorithm and one or more control parameters for processing a fingerprint;

downloading the selected algorithm and one or more control parameters to a fingerprint control protocol; and

transferring the fingerprint control protocol to a terminal node, wherein the fingerprint control protocol includes an Internet protocol header, a user datagram protocol header, a real-time transport protocol header, a FlexMux header, and a synchronization layer header.

18. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 17, further comprising:  
utilizing, at the terminal node, the fingerprint control protocol to process the fingerprint.

19. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 18, wherein utilizing, at the terminal node, the fingerprint control protocol to process the fingerprint, comprises:

generating the fingerprint; and

forwarding the fingerprint to the headend node for verification.

20. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 17, further comprising:  
periodically checking the terminal node characteristics to adjust the selected algorithm  
and one or more control parameters.
21. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the  
fingerprint control protocol further includes data that is packed into one or more MPEG  
elementary streams.
22. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the fingerprint is a  
video fingerprint.
23. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the fingerprint is an  
audio fingerprint.
24. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the fingerprint control  
protocol is an application level control protocol.